

17 September 1966

Dear Shirley,

Thanks for the reassuring words about my Bogard piece. Yes, the editorial "Between Two Assassinations" was a fine ~~w~~ one; I contributed the warning that any new investigation must be in the framework of the adversary procedure, also the use of the knowledge and expertise of all the private researchers. Let me make one thing clear--I am not taking the position that it was Oswald who test-drove the car; I think it is one of the strong episodes in which an impersonator could have been at work, and have not at all ruled out deliberate impersonation. At the same time, the WR disregarded so much of the evidence that suggests either a legitimate or a false Oswald did drive with Bogard, and is so unfair in impeaching Bogard when he was obviously truthful, that I wanted to show primarily how devious and dishonest the WR is and how strangely the Feebees Clements and De Brueys "investigated" the matter, rather than taking a categorical position on whether it was or was not Oswald. Frankly, I still don't know, in my own mind, and I can readily believe that it was a false Oswald despite the indications which suggest some ground for the real one being involved in the incident.

Yes, I will be glad to get a copy of "The Second Oswald" and airmail it to you. I will try to do it on Monday (this is Saturday and I can't get it locally).

By the way--to revert to Bogard again for a minute--Lane's book says that he was badly beaten up after he testified; but I have been told by someone else that he was badly beaten up in January 1964. Do you have anything on that?

I am looking forward to your information on the Colonel, one of my "candidates" for you-know-what. Your commentary on the Paines' third car is fascinating--Vince has also talked about this at some length. Is any of that information in the 26 volumes, or is it all from personal investigation?

Maggie Field is one of the original crusaders against the WR, she lives in Beverly Hills, and I have a very close friendship with her, mainly by letter and phone, although we did meet in October 1965 when she was in NYC en route to Paris. She is a woman of about 50, handsome and younger-looking, well-to-do, I think, with a young son of 19 and a daughter of about 18 or so. Maggie has a strong passion about this case--she is convinced that Oswald is completely innocent, and she has mastered the 26 volumes as few other people have done. Her feelings about Vietnam are even stronger; and just now she is going through absolute hell because her son has been classified L-A. I think she will not be able to survive the horror if he is sent there, because it is so terribly wrong and barbarically cruel to innocent and helpless people. In my own bottomless bitterness about that dirty murder of a small country I am sometimes grateful to have no hostages, no sons to be made into filthy murderers.

About the Tippit unlisted number: it is one of the things I have long puzzled about and included in my ms. I have included it also in something I did for Esquire which is supposed to come out in the December issue. You raise a good question--do many police have unlisted numbers? It may be a common practice, or it may not. Here is an idea--if you have a Dallas phone-book, how about checking it against the police roster? (Batchelor Exhibit, Volume XIX).

Shirley, you know how much I value your letters and your friendship. The Penn Jones said the warmest things about you, but I guess you know how much they too love you! Keep writing asmuch as you can, and I will, too.

Love,